

Appl. No. 10/603,288
Paper dated October 11, 2005
Reply to office action dated August 24, 2005

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5-13 and 15-22 are pending, and all but claims 5 and 15 have been allowed. [8/24/05 Office Action at pp. 4-7]. Specifically, claims 5 and 15 had been rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,796,171 to Linda ("Linda"). [8/24/05 Office Action at pp. 2-3]. As explained below, this rejection is now moot.

By this paper, formerly independent claim 5 has been amended without prejudice or disclaimer into dependent form so that it depends from allowed claim 1. No new matter will be added to this application by entry of these amendments. Entry is requested.

Claims 5 and 15 are dependent from independent claim 1, which has been allowed. Accordingly, for at least similar reasons, dependent claims 5 and 15 also are asserted to be patentably distinct from the cited references. Allowance is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

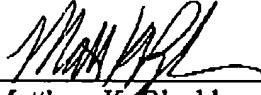
For the above-stated reasons, this application is respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable examination on the merits is requested. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF THIS AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 AND 1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 13-4500, ORDER NO. 1948-4808.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: October 11, 2005

By: _____


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